

Introduced by Senators Karnette and Alpert

February 21, 2003

An act to add Sections 8534.5, 8536.1, 8540, and 8541 to the Education Code, relating to students.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 823, as introduced, Karnette. Adult education.

Existing law provides that adult basic education and the high school diploma program are the responsibility of high school districts and unified school districts, except where the responsibility is assigned to a community college district by mutual agreement. Existing law further provides that programs for adults involving postsecondary programs that meet the standards prescribed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges for credit and noncredit courses are the responsibility of community college districts. Existing law further provides for vocational, occupational, and continuing education training for adults in high school districts, unified school districts, and community college districts.

This bill would state that it is a priority of the state to provide adequate funds that will enable each adult education provider to give priority to courses in basic education, English as a second language, and vocational training.

The bill would require the Legislature, on or before April 1, 2004, to convene a task force to develop a strategic plan, as specified, for assessing the effectiveness of California's adult education system. The task force would be required to solicit advice from specified entities in preparing the plan, and would be required to submit the plan to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005.

The bill would declare that it is a state priority to establish reciprocity of instructional credentials in the adult education systems by requiring the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, on or before June 1, 2004, to jointly establish minimum qualifications that will permit an instructor to teach adult education courses in a high school district, unified school district, or community college district.

The bill would, in addition, require the State Board of Education, on or before January 1, 2006, to develop develop skill standards for adult education programs similar to those developed by the National Skills Standards Board (NSSB), the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), and Equipped for the Future.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8534.5 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 8534.5. It is a state priority to provide adequate funds that will
4 enable each high school district, unified school district, and
5 community college district providing adult education to give
6 priority to courses in basic education, English as a second
7 language, and vocational training.

8 SEC. 2. Section 8536.1 is added to the Education Code, to
9 read:

10 8536.1. It is a priority of the state to establish reciprocity of
11 instructional credentials in the adult education systems. On or
12 before June 1, 2004, the State Board of Education and the Board
13 of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall jointly
14 establish minimum qualifications that will permit an instructor to
15 teach adult education courses in a high school district, unified
16 school district, or community college district.

17 SEC. 3. Section 8540 is added to the Education Code, to read:

18 8540. (a) On or before April 1, 2004, the Legislature shall
19 convene a task force to develop a strategic plan for assessing the
20 effectiveness of California's adult education system.

21 (b) On or before January 1, 2005, the task force shall prepare
22 and submit the plan to the Legislature for its consideration.



(c) In preparing the plan required by this section, the task force shall solicit advice from representatives from each of the following:

(1) The State Department of Education.

(2) California Community Colleges.

(3) Local service providers in the areas of adult and noncredit education, including, but not limited to, regional occupational centers and programs.

(4) The Employment Development Department.

(5) At least one local workforce investment board.

(6) The Office of the Legislative Analyst.

(7) The Governor.

(8) Representatives from stakeholder groups, including, but not limited to, business and adult education students.

(d) The plan submitted pursuant to this section shall include all of the following:

(1) A description of California's adult education system.

(2) A description of each category of adult education instruction provided by each high school, unified, and community college district, including a description of any overlapping instruction provided by high school, unified, and community college districts.

(3) A determination of whether high school and unified school district adult schools should be limited to providing services to students who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(4) A determination of whether community colleges should be limited to providing services to students who either have a high school diploma or who are at least 18 years of age and whose academic goals include a certificate, an associate's degree, or transfer preparation.

(5) A list of indicators appropriate to assess the effectiveness of California's adult education system.

SEC. 4. Section 8541 is added to the Education Code, to read:

8541. On or before January 1, 2006, the State Board of Education shall develop skill standards for adult education programs similar to those developed by the National Skills Standards Board (NSSB), the Secretary's Commission on

- 1 Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), and Equipped for the
- 2 Future.

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